

**In the Specification:**

The paragraph beginning on page 1, line 15 (after the title) is amended as follows:

"WS-Security" which is a security specification for such a Web service has been made public by International Business Machines Corporation, Microsoft Corporation and VeriSign Incorporated (~~non-patent document 1~~ see Hiroshi Maruyama et al., "Web Service Security (WS-Security)", April 5, 2002, Published by International Business Machines Corporation/Microsoft Corporation/VeriSign Incorporated). In "WS-Security", a mechanism for realizing single sign-on in a federated computing environment including a plurality of servers among which relationships of mutual trust are established is defined. "Relationship of mutual trust" or "trusting relationship" refers to a relationship among two or more servers such that if authentication of a user in the authentication system of one of the two or more servers succeeds, the user is treated as an authentic user in the other servers. An instance of a specification for the above-mentioned federation has been made public as "WS-Federation" (~~non-patent document 2~~ see Hiroshi Maruyama et al., "Web Service Federation Language (WS-Federation)", July 8, 2003, Published by International Business Machines Corporation/Microsoft Corporation/VeriSign Incorporated).

The paragraph beginning on page 2, line 16 is deleted as marked up below:

See Hiroshi Maruyama et al., "Web Service Security (WS-Security)", April 5, 2002, Published by International Business Machines Corporation/Microsoft Corporation/VeriSign Incorporated:

The paragraph beginning on page 2, line 20 is deleted as marked up below:

~~See Hiroshi Maruyama et al., "Web Service Federation Language (WS-Federation)", July 8, 2003,  
Published by International Business Machines Corporation/Microsoft Corporation/VeriSign  
Incorporated:~~